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anism for opening and closing the leaf-blades is discussed at some length, and amply illustrated. Many a botanist will here find a fuller account of the curious "bulliform cells" of the grass-leaves than he can readily find access to elsewhere. The torsion of the leaves is another curious subject to which some attention is given. "In half or more of the grasses examined, the whole or a majority of the leaves, by a twist of the lower portion of the blade, turn 'wrong side up' and expose the lower side to the sunlight."

The style of the author is well adapted to the purpose of the book, and no farmer need hesitate to purchase it for fear of its being too technical. The mechanical execution of the book is good, the illustrations are accurate, and the printing is well done upon good paper. Some typographical errors mar the pages here and there; but these can easily be corrected in a second edition, which will certainly be demanded. The author is to be congratulated upon the successful completion of this valuable book. The second part will be looked for with keen interest.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

Smithsonian Institution.—Annual Report of the Board of Regents for 1884. Part II. Report on the U. S. National Museum, by G. B. Goode; with papers on the collections, by O. T. Mason, J. Murdoch, F. W. True, etc.

White, F. E., Dr.—Hygiene as a Basis of Morals. Reprinted from Popular Science Monthly, 1887. From the author.

Stone, G. H.—Terminal Moraines in Maine. From the author. 1887.

Giard, M. A.—Sur la castration parasitaire chez *l'Eupagurus bernhardus* Linné et chez la *Gebia stellata* Montagu. 1887.—Sur un Copepode parasite de *l'Amphiura squamata.* 1887. Both from the author.

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Eigenmann, C. H. }
Horning, J. E., Miss. } Review of the Chætodontidæ of North America. Ext. Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci., January, 1887. From the authors.

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Vetter, B.—Die Paläontologie vor dem Kongress der Vereinigten Staaten. From the author.

Lydekker, R.—Description of a Jaw of Hyotherium from the Pliocene of India.—The Cetacea of the Suffolk Crag. Both from Quart. Jour. Geol. Soc., February, 1887, and from the author.

Bennett, A. W.—Fresh-Water Algæ of North Cornwall, with descriptions of six new species. Journ. Micros. Soc., 1887. From the author.

Cooper, J. C.—Notes on some Rare Minerals of the Southwest. Bull. Washburn College, July, 1886. From the author.

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Schmalhausen, J.—Ueber tertiäre Pflanzen am Fusse des Altaigebirges. "Paläontographica." Stuttgart, 1887.

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Bruder, G. } Ammoniten der Böhmischen Kreide. "Paläontographica."

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Jordan, D. S.—Fishes collected at Beaufort, S. C.—Fishes collected at Havana, Cuba. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. From the author.

GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.

General.—It is pointed out by Ed. Heawood, in a recent number of the *Proc. Roy. Geog. Soc.*, that the relations of length of the eight principal rivers given by General Tillo would be greatly altered were the general course taken, and the minor tortuosities left out. The Nile would unquestionably then be the longest river (3100 miles), the Yang-tse-Kiang (2750) and Yenesei (2700) would exceed the Amazons (2600), and this the Mississippi (2500), while the Congo would equal the Mississippi, and the Amur (2200) and Mackenzie (1800) would come after the Hoang-Ho, Obi-Irtish, Lena, and Mekong.

America. MOUNTS HOOD, ST. ELIAS, AND WRANGEL.—Heights of mountains and lengths of rivers seem to be rather good exercises for memory than ascertained facts, yet we must presume that triangulation is gradually bringing the mountains at least into their proper place. Mount Hood, in Oregon, has undergone great reduction by this means. Once "roughly" estimated at 17,000 feet, and "closely" at 16,000, a triangulation brought it down to 13,000; an aneroid barometer is said to have made it 12,000, and a mercurial barometer reduced it to 11,225. Mount St. Elias has by similar processes been elevated from D'Agelet's